

REMARKS

Claims 1, 60-75 and 78-79 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants retain the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a related patent application. Claims 56-59 and 76-77 are indicated as allowed.

No new matter is added by this amendment, and reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Finality of Restriction Requirement

Claims 1, 60, and 61 were formally cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as drawn to non-elected subject matter.

II. Rejection Under the Second Paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 62-75, 78, and 79 were rejected for indefiniteness. This rejection is rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A. Claims 66-75 were rejected as anticipated by McKnight et al. (US 5,710,266). This rejection is rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

B. Claims 66 -73 were rejected as anticipated under 35 USC § 102(e) by Leonard (US 6,265,160). This rejection is rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

IV. Rejection Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 66-75 were rejected as obvious over Leonard in view of Xu et al. further in view of Schreiber et al. This rejection is rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

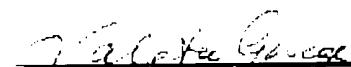
Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance

for the claims indicated as allowed, claims 56-59 and 76-77, is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,
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